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CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: East Germany

CD NO.

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DATE DISTR. 30 October 1953

SUBJECT: Cancellation of all Foreign Trade Agreements
by Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 In late May 1953, Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft (German trading company) (DWV) at 61 Friedrichstrasse, East Berlin, cancelled all foreign trade agreements with capitalistic countries by order of the SED [redacted] and goods scheduled for capitalistic countries, under these agreements, would be shipped to the USSR as reparation deliveries.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: Other information indicated that the DWV is subordinate to the SED Central Committee which is said to hold all shares. Contrary to previous reports, the DWV is not under the control of the Ministry for Foreign and Interzonal Trade or the GDR branches.

25X1 [redacted] The DWV is said to cover unofficial foreign trade, i.e. illegal business transactions with western countries, and like other similar firms such as Meletex is engaged in purchasing goods which cannot be procured by official foreign trade agencies. Available information indicated that the foreign currency policy of member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance would be subjected to central control and that, in connection with this measure, the Ministry for Foreign and Interzonal Trade was instructed by the Council to cancel a considerable number of agreements with western commercial partners as not being in conformity with the foreign currency control regulations issued by the Council. The measure referred to may be due to this decision. No confirmation on this decision of the Council as well as the cancellation order is yet available, however.

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